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Note verbale dated 28 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to transmit herewith a letter from Farouk Al-Shara', Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic, addressed to the Secretary-General concerning the situation in the Syrian village of Alghajar in the Syrian Occupied Golan (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present note verbale and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 28 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

The question of the partition of the Syrian village of Ghajar in the occupied Syrian Golan has continued to be of great popular concern in the Syrian Arab Republic, inasmuch as the Israeli occupation authorities have recently begun to bring the greatest pressure to bear on the inhabitants of the village for the construction of a barbed-wire fence along the Blue Line that was drawn by the United Nations and that had the result of dividing the village. The inhabitants of the village, our citizens, are resisting this pressure, and they reject the building of any barbed-wire fence that divides their village regardless of the pretexts used or the reasons given.

The village of Ghajar is a sensitive issue and something more than a humanitarian one. The inhabitants of the village have stated unequivocally that they were born as Syrians and that they will remain Syrians in all circumstances. They are a single family and their fields lie around the village. They cannot consent to the partition of their village and only wish to live together in harmony, concord and unity.

We raised this matter with you at our meeting in Damascus on 23 June 2000, and you promised to hold the necessary consultations in its regard.

In our view, the United Nations must preserve the unity of Ghajar, given that it is an occupied Syrian village; no forces must enter it other than United Nations forces; and it should remain under the control of United Nations forces, as an interim solution, pending Israel's implementation of Security Council resolution 242 (1967) and the evacuation of the Israeli occupation forces from the occupied Syrian Golan and their withdrawal to the line of 4 June 1967.

We hope and trust that the matter will receive your full attention and that you will make every effort in its regard in the context of your endeavours for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region.

(*Signed*) Farouk **Al-Shara'**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic
Damascus, 21 February 2001